

REGULAR MEETING – MANSFIELD TOWN COUNCIL
February 28, 2011

Mayor Elizabeth Paterson called the regular meeting of the Mansfield Town Council to order at 7:30 p.m. in the Council Chambers of the Audrey P. Beck Building.

I. ROLL CALL

Present: Kochenburger, Moran, Paterson, Ryan, Schaefer, Shapiro
Excused: Keane, Lindsey, Paulhus

II. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Mr. Ryan moved and Mr. Schaefer seconded to approve the minutes of the February 12, 2011 Special meeting. The motion passed with all in favor except Councilors Moran and Schaefer who abstained. Mr. Shapiro moved and Mr. Ryan seconded to approve the minutes of the February 12, 2011 meeting as presented. The motion passed with all in favor except Mr. Schaefer who abstained.

III. PUBLIC HEARING

1. Amendment to Fee Waiver Ordinance – Senior Center Program

The Town Clerk read the notice for the public hearing.

Mike Sikoski, Wildwood Road, spoke in favor of the amendment but stated that he is not in favor of the fee waivers established for the Community Center. Mr. Sikoski referred to an advertisement for the Center which offered a discount and urged the Council to retain control of setting the fees.

The public hearing was closed.

Mr. Schaefer moved and Mr. Kochenburger seconded to move Item 5, Meeting with Senator Williams, as the next item of business.

The motion passed unanimously.

IV. OPPORTUNITY FOR PUBLIC TO ADDRESS THE COUNCIL

Betty Wassmundt, Old Turnpike Road, expressed her desire to have public discussions on a number of subjects including the role of government and the expectations of the Ethics Code. Statement attached.

Ric Hossack, Middle Turnpike, complimented the Community Center on its babysitting class and the Fire Department on their quick response to a call over the weekend. The efforts of the trained babysitter and the quick action of the Fire Department helped save a life. Mr. Hossack called for unifying the Community Center by providing access to all town residents.

David Freudmann, Eastwood Road, urged the Town Manager and his counterparts in other sending towns to request a level funded budget from Region 19. Mr. Freudmann feels the budget should be reduced by the amount of income received from tuition for the 33 students from Columbia, approximately \$330,000.

Mike Sikoski, Wildwood Road, a member of the Ethics Board but speaking for himself, commented that the draft Ethics Code under consideration by the Personnel Committee is not what the Board of Ethics proposed. Mr. Sikoski also

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stated that the agenda for the Personnel Committee was posted outside the Town Clerk's office but was not on the website.

Ms. Moran moved and Mr. Schaefer seconded to move Item 3, Status Report on Independent/Assisted Living Project, as the next item of business. The motion passed unanimously.

V. REPORT OF TOWN MANAGER

Report attached.

The Town Manager reported that the rating presentation with Moody's, conducted earlier in the day, went very well and he does not anticipate any changes in the Town's rating status.

The Manager will provide a history of fee setting at the Community Center and additional details regarding the cost of refilling and heating the Community Center pool for the next meeting.

VI. REPORTS AND COMMENTS OF COUNCIL MEMBERS

Mr. Ryan noted the proposed Region 19 budget is the Superintendent's budget which will be reduced during the budget process and that the proposed budget includes only ten potential students from Columbia.

Mr. Kochenburger corrected a statement made during public comment regarding the percentage of town residents who are members of the Community Center. His statement, as presented at an earlier meeting, was that of all the Town services offered the Community Center probably has the highest percentage of Town residents participating.

Mr. Schaefer moved and Ms. Moran seconded to add Item 7A, MMA Fuel Conversion Project – Resolution of October 26, 2009, to the agenda.

The motion passed unanimously.

VII. OLD BUSINESS

2. Amendment to Fee Waiver Ordinance – Senior Center Program

Mr. Shapiro moved and Mr. Ryan seconded adoption of the proposed February 14, 2011 amendment to the Fee Waivers Ordinance which would add senior center fees as a fee that may be waived.

Mr. Kochenburger requested a statement indicating that the amendment shall be effective 21 days after publication in a newspaper having circulation within the Town of Mansfield be added to the motion.

Agreed to by the maker and seconder of the motion the amendment as revised was approved by all.

3. Status Report on Independent/Assisted Living Project

Mr. Shapiro recused himself from the discussion.

John Paul Venoit, Senior Vice President of Residential Services of Masonicare, reiterated that Masonicare would like to pursue the assisted/independent living project in Mansfield at the Maple Road location but lacks the necessary water to

move forward. Mr. Venoit stated that assurances of support from the Town Council to the Board of Directors would be helpful. Council members established that a letter of support would be a commitment to work collaboratively with Masonicare to procure water but would not be a commitment of funds or bonding.

Mr. Kochenburger moved and Ms. Moran seconded, effective February 28, 2011, to authorize the Mayor to issue a letter to the Board of Directors of Masonicare, conveying the Town Council's support and commitment to working collaboratively with the appropriate parties to secure water and wastewater service for Masonicare's independent/assisted living project in Mansfield.

The motion passed with all in favor except Mr. Shapiro who abstained.

4. Community/Campus Relations

Ms. Moran, Chair of the Community Quality of Life Committee, reported the Committee is discussing an ordinance regarding large gatherings. The Town Manager also reported on a meeting held with the State Police to discuss the implementation of the proposed nuisance ordinance. The Troopers had a few language suggestions but are in support of the efforts and are willing to enforce the criminal portion of the ordinance.

VIII. NEW BUSINESS

5. Meeting with Senator Williams

State Senator Don Williams outlined the difficult budget situation faced by the State and answered questions from Council members. Senator Williams expects the Governor's proposal regarding the reduction of state reimbursement for school projects to be upheld or even further reduced and is confident the budget process will be completed by the beginning of May. The Senator will also explore the possibility of allowing an increase in the employee contributions to the MERS retirement system to be a subject of collective bargaining.

6. Public Information Meeting – Storrs Road Enhancement Project

Mr. Schaefer moved and Mr. Shapiro seconded, effective February 28, 2011, to schedule for 7:15 p.m. at Town Council's regular meeting on March 28, 2011, a public information session regarding the Storrs Road Enhancement Project. Motion passed unanimously.

7. Small Cities (Community Development Block Grant) Public Hearing – Housing Rehabilitation

Mr. Ryan moved Mr. Shapiro seconded, effective February 28, 2011, to schedule a public hearing for 7:30 p.m. at the Town Council's regular meeting on March 28, 2011, to solicit public comment regarding the proposed application to the State Department of Economic Community Development for funds under the Small Cities Program. Motion passed by all.

7a. MMS Fuel Conversion Project – Resolution of October 26, 2009

Director of Finance Cherie Trahan stated this motion is a clarification of the resolution approved by the Council on October 26, 2009.

Ms. Moran moved and Mr. Schaefer seconded to approve the following resolution:

RESOLVED, that the Town Council resolution adopted October 26, 2009 is hereby amended to read as follows:

RESOLVED, that the Town of Mansfield increase by EIGHT HUNDRED THOUSAND DOLLARS (\$800,000) the appropriation for replacement of the electrical heating system at the Mansfield Middle School approved November 7, 2006, for an aggregate appropriation of \$4,600,000. The amount of bonds and notes authorized shall remain \$3,800,000, and the increased appropriation shall be funded from the Reserve Fund for Capital and Non-Recurring Expenditures in the amount of \$476,000, and from anticipated state grants in the amount of \$324,000.

Motion to approve the resolution was passed unanimously.

IX. DEPARTMENTAL AND COMMITTEE REPORTS

No comments

X. REPORTS OF COUNCIL COMMITTEES

Ms. Moran, Chair of the Personnel Committee, reported the Committee is in the process of reviewing the draft Ethics Ordinance. The ordinance under review is substantially different in organization and style from the draft previously presented to the Council. The completed draft will be presented to the Council and Ethics Board for comments.

XI. PETITIONS, REQUEST AND COMMUNICATIONS

8. F. Baruzzi re: FY 2011-12 Budget
9. G. Padick re: Healey Barn Grant Application
10. G. Padick re: Proposed Inland Wetlands Regulation revisions
11. Legal Notice: Public Notice to Bus and Taxi Operators
12. Press Release: Mansfield Commission on Aging Updates Long-Range Plan for Seniors
13. CCM re: President's Fiscal Year 2012 Budget Request Gets Mixed Reviews from Cities
14. Chronicle "Hearing closed for zoning reg revisions" – 02-10-11
15. Chronicle "USG: Spring Weekend should ban visitors" – 02-10-11
16. Chronicle "Mansfield wants to buy open parcel" – 02-12-11
17. Chronicle "We offer these threads, needles" – 02-14-11
18. Chronicle "Mansfield casino dollars to be slashed" – 02-16-11
19. Chronicle "Share the costs of Spring Weekend" – 02-16-11
20. Chronicle "Mansfield's grand list sees slight increase" – 02-17-11
21. Chronicle "Two firms hired to design hub for Storrs Center" – 02-17-11
22. Chronicle "We offer these threads, needles" – 02-21-11
23. Hartford Courant "UConn Student Leaders Rebuff Spring Weekend Moratorium" – 02-10-11

XII. FUTURE AGENDAS

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Ms. Moran requested the reduction to day care center grants as proposed in the Governor's budget be discussed at a future meeting. Discovery Depot Director Mary Jane Newman will be invited to a future meeting.

XIII. ADJOURNMENT

Mr. Ryan moved and Mr. Shapiro seconded to adjourn the meeting at 9:10 p.m. The motion passed unanimously.

Elizabeth Paterson, Mayor

Mary Stanton, Town Clerk

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